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Hong Kong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1857.

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 1891.

三月四日二英港香港

PRICE \$2 PER MONTH

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All letters for publication should be written on one side only, and should be sent to the Post Office.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.

After that hour no copy will be issued.

Telegraphic Address Press. Telephone No. 12.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, FEBRUARY 4TH, 1891.

HONGKONG. A startling proposal has been made by Mr. HOWARD, the late Secretary of the British Legation at Peking, to the effect that the office of Consul-General at Shanghai and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for China and Japan should be held by one person. We have not seen a copy of the report in which this remarkable suggestion is made, and are indebted to the N. C. Daily News, for what little information we possess as to its contents. The present British Consul-General, Mr. P. J. HAWKES, has sent in his resignation, and Mr. HOWARD proposes, and it is in contemplation by the Foreign Office — to our Northern contemporary says — that no successor shall be appointed to Mr. HAWKES from the Consular ranks, but that the Chief Judge of the Supreme Court shall be also Consul-General, while the Assistant Judge shall act also as Consul. Presumably Mr. HOWARD advanced some reasons in support of his recommendation, but what they can have been it is difficult to conceive, and we find it almost impossible to credit the statement that the Foreign Office actually contemplated adopting the course recommended. The Daily News supposes Mr. HOWARD came to the conclusion that there was not work enough at Shanghai for two high officials, and points out that there were only eight cases in the Supreme Court last year, twenty-one cases in the Summary Court, and fifty-six in the Police Court. This does not include the work done in Chambers; if it were the total, it must be admitted it would be rather a small one to occupy two Judges. The only advantage to be gained by the adoption of the course recommended by Mr. HOWARD would, however, be a small saving in salaries, while on the other hand there would be the very grave disadvantage which inevitably attend the union of executive and judicial functions. To find a man who would be at once a good Judge and a good Consul would be almost impossible; if law occupied the first place in his mind the Consular duties would be more or less satisfactorily performed, and vice versa. It is, moreover, a rule of the Consular Service that its members shall have a practical acquaintance with the Chinese language, and a Judge appointed from home would be unable to qualify in this respect. The knowledge of the language might, of course, be dispensed with, but a Consul altogether dependent on his translators and interpreters would be placed at a considerable disadvantage. The language, however, is not the most important consideration. The excellence which characterizes the Chinese Consular Service is due to the fact that its members are specially trained and have to pass through all the subordinate grades before they are placed in charge of a Court. A middle-aged barrister coming out as Judge would not have enjoyed the advantage of this training, and as a Consul would be almost as much out of his element as he would be in the service of a naval officer.

mand. There are of course Consuls who have been called to the bar when at home or have but it is not within the bounds of probability that they would be considered politically eligible for the office of Judge, although technically they are so now.

When the Court at Shanghai had to discharge judicial functions prior to the establishment of the Supreme Court in the early sixties, very considerable inconvenience resulted. It was to remove this inconvenience, as well as to make better provision for the administration of justice throughout China and Japan generally, that the Supreme Court was constituted. The Supreme Court is not concerned only with cases arising within the Consular district of Shanghai. Each Consul holds a Provincial Court, and each Court may, of its own motion, or on the application of any person concerned, report to the Supreme Court the pendency of any case, civil or criminal, which appears to the Provincial Court fit to be heard and determined by the Supreme Court, and the latter may then hear the case direct in what mode and where the case shall be heard and determined. In pursuance of this provision the Supreme Court has from time to time sat at other ports than Shanghai for the trial of important cases, both civil and criminal. It is also provided by the Order in Council that each Provincial Court shall every six months forward to the Supreme Court a report respecting every case brought before it in such form as the Judge of the Supreme Court may from time to time direct. The functions of the Supreme Court are therefore much more important than they are represented to be by our contemporaries, which discuss the matter solely in its bearing upon Shanghai. The limited number of cases dealt with at that port is far from representing the sum total of the Court's work. The change proposed would affect not only Shanghai but the whole judicial service, and to combine the offices of Chief Justice and Consul-General if the same person would inevitably result in some sacrifice of efficiency. We cannot but think that the Daily News has been misinformed as to the attitude of the Foreign Office towards Mr. HOWARD's proposal. If any change is contemplated it will much more likely be in the direction of allowing the Consul-General at Shanghai simply to hold a Provincial Court, as is done by the Consuls at the other ports, and transferring the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court for China and Japan to the Supreme Court of Hongkong. The latter would then exercise the same functions in respect of China and Japan that the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements exercises in respect of Siam and Borneo.

The following is given the bounds of the American papers, but the story should be taken with a grain of salt: — "They tell in Paris a curious story of an Asiatic republic in which appears the name of a member of the family of Captain Sims of famous memory. He is said to have originated in the upper part of the Amur, and had its origin in the discovery of gold dust on one of the Amur's branches. This was some five or six years ago. So many Chinese flocked to the region that the population soon reached 10,000, and an army of government was created to maintain law and order. The Chinese rebels, with their leader, Kort, as President, the territory is on the boundaries of the Chinese empire, as far from Peking as is isolated by the great desert of Gobi that for some years, the Chinese Authorities did not know of its existence. As to Russia, they could not understand how the republic was in its most prosperous condition. Miss Sims, of famous memory, happened among the rebels, who created a great sensation as did the first woman that appeared in San Francisco in 1849. President Kort was so fascinated with the charming Miss Sims that he married her, and she became the mother of gold miners, which is hereditary. She is now married to a man of the Amur, and has great credit in the permanence of the republic, as did the first woman that appeared in San Francisco in 1849. President Kort was so fascinated with the charming Miss Sims that he married her, and she became the mother of gold miners, which is hereditary. She is now married to a man of the Amur, and has great credit in the permanence of the republic, as did the first woman that appeared in San Francisco in 1849. President Kort was so fascinated with the charming Miss Sims that he married her, and she became the mother of gold miners, which is hereditary. 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COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE

TUESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY.
CLOTHING QUOTATIONS
EXCHANGE.

ON LUNNON.	100/-
Tailored Coat.	53/-
Buck Bills on demand.	53/-
Buck Bills at 6 months' sight.	54/-
Civil List at 4 months' sight.	54/-
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight.	54/-
ON PARIS.	14/-
Buck Bills, on demand.	14/-
Buck Bills at 4 months' sight.	14/-
ON GENEVA.	13/-
On demand.	13/-
after sight.	
ON NEW YORK.	
Buck Bills, on demand.	8/-
Credit 60 days sight.	8/-
ON MILAN.	20/-
Telegraphic Transfer.	20/-
Buck, on demand.	20/-
ON CALCUTTA.	20/-
Telegraphic Transfer.	20/-
Buck, on demand.	20/-
ON BRASIL.	11/-
Private, 30 days' sight.	11/-
SOCRATES, Bank's Baring Date.	5/-

JOINT STOCK SHARES
COMPANY.

	Paid Up.	Quotations.
Banks—Hongkong & Shai.	\$125	267 curr new issue
Do. now issue.	\$20,147	new issue
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$20	210 fixed
Brown & Co., H. G.	\$20	165 sellers
Campbell, Mourd & Co.	\$10	110, nom.
China Journals.	\$10	110, nom.
China S. & Co.	\$100	par buyers
Chinese Loan '81 C.	\$100	250
Chinese Loan '81 E.	\$100	275
Chirkawich & Co.	\$20	165, nom.
Dairy & Co. Geor.	\$25	175
Gordon & Co. A. G.	\$25	175
Green Island Cement	\$20	110
H. Bright & Co.	\$10	110, sellers
H. & C. Barker's.	\$10	110, nom.
H. & C. Barker's.	\$10	110, nom.
Hockong Electric.	\$20	175, sellers
H. H. L. Tranways.	\$20	100, nom.
Hongkong Y.	\$20	135, buyers
H. K. Ward & G.	\$20	165, sellers
Hockong Bazaar.	\$20	137, buyers
H. & W. Dock.	\$125	100 p. c. per sellers
Austin Arms.	\$20	110
Shore Hotel.	\$20	100, 150, sellers
Peak Hotel.	\$20	110, nom.
Shanmen.	\$20	110, nom.
Insurance.	\$20	110, nom.
Caston.	\$20	110, nom.
China Trade.	\$20	110, nom.
Hongkong Fire.	\$20	110, nom.
North China.	\$20	110, 275, buyers
Singapore.	\$20	175
Shantung Fire.	\$20	110, nom.
Szechuan.	\$20	110, nom.
Uru.	\$20	110, nom.
Yunnan.	\$20	110, nom.
Land & Building.	\$20	110, 150, sellers
H. Land & Invest's.	\$20	110, nom.
Bank Building.	\$20	110, nom.
Humphries Estate.	\$20	110, nom.
Westland Building.	\$20	110, nom.
Lancs Stages.	\$20	110, nom.
Mahle Gold.	\$10	110, sellers
Chesbroughs.	\$10	100, buyers
Imperial.	\$10	110, sellers
Leeds.	\$10	110, sellers
Kash.	\$10	110, nom.
Salama.	\$10	110, nom.
Do. C.	\$10	110, nom.
E. & S. COXON.	\$10	110, nom.
Share Brokers.	\$10	110, nom.
OPUM.	\$10	Allow.
For Flora.	\$10	allow.
This year's New Malva.	\$20	3/- to 4/-
Last year's New Malva.	\$20	3/- to 4/-
Other Malva.	\$20	3/- to 4/-
Fatua (Old).	\$275	per peal.
Fatua (New).	\$262	"
Banana (Old).	\$255	"
EXPORT CARGO.		
Per British steamer "Frob." sailed on the 20th January.—For London—225 bales waste silk, 320 packages preserved 222 rolls, matting, 160 packages cases, 149 cases chintz-ware, 85 cases wood-ware, and other sundries. From New York—400 cases tea. For London—2,400 bales hemp.		
THE WEATHER.		
Messrs. FALCONER & CO'S. BARISTER, Feb. 2nd.		
Barometer 30.14. Therm. 52.4. (Wet bulb) 60. Barometer 1 P.M. 30.22 Therm. 51.6. (Wet bulb) 60. Barometer 4 P.M. 30.30 Therm. 51.6. (Wet bulb) 60. Therm. 1 P.M. 30.28 Therm. 51.6. (Wet bulb) 60. Therm. 4 P.M. 30.28 Therm. 51.6. (Wet bulb) 60.		
WEATHEROLOGICAL REGISTER.		
2ND FEBRUARY, AT 4 P.M.		
STATION.	Wind.	Westerly.
Wladyslawsk.	30.44	6
Tokio.	30.44	6
W.	30.44	6
Shanghai.	30.42	41
Foochow.	30.40	50
Amoy.	30.40	50
Apia.	30.40	50
Swatow.	30.10	61
Hongkong.	30.04	61
Canton.	30.04	61
Macao.	30.05	61
Holloway.	30.02	73
Hainan.	30.02	73
Hollance.	30.05	61
Manila.	30.27	64
Cape S. James.	30.27	64
INDIA.	30.48	61
Whidbey.	30.48	61
Tobig.	30.48	61
Nagasaki.	30.31	58
Shanghai.	30.32	41
Foochow.	30.30	50
Amoy.	30.11	58
Apia.	30.12	58
Swatow.	30.10	61
Hongkong.	30.04	61
Canton.	30.04	61
Macao.	30.05	61
Holloway.	30.02	73
Hainan.	30.02	73
Hollance.	30.05	61
Manila.	30.27	64
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INDIA.	30.48	61
Whidbey.	30.48	61
Tobig.	30.48	61
Nagasaki.	30.31	58
Shanghai.	30.32	41
Foochow.	30.30	50
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